Remarks

Claims 1, 10, 26 and 30

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that an RFC, unlike a store buffer, also holds instruction results for non-store instructions. *Abramson*'s store buffers do not hold non-store instruction results. Therefore, *Abramson*'s store buffers are not an RFC.

Claim 18

The Examiner correctly asserts that *Abramson* has taught multiple comparators to compare the load address with store buffer addresses. However, *Abramson* has not also taught comparing the load address with store addresses in pipeline stages, i.e., with non-store buffer addresses. Applicants have amended the claim to clarify that the claimed pipeline stages which have store data are not store buffers.

Claims 21 and 23

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the distinctive meaning of speculative store forwarding, which *Abramson* does not teach.

Claim 34

Applicants believe the distinctive meaning of speculative store forwarding to be clear in claim 34 and are therefore unable to amend the claim to make it more explicit.

7